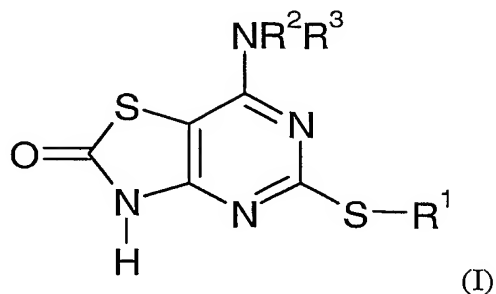


CLAIMS

1. A method for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof:

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in which

R^1 represents a C_3 - C_7 carbocyclic, C_1 - C_8 alkyl, C_2 - C_6 alkenyl or C_2 - C_6 alkynyl group, each of
 10 the groups being optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, $-OR^4$, $-NR^5R^6$, $-CONR^5R^6$, $-COOR^7$, $-NR^8COR^9$, $-SR^{10}$, $-SO_2R^{10}$, $-SO_2NR^5R^6$, $-NR^8SO_2R^9$ or an aryl or heteroaryl group, both of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, cyano, nitro, $-OR^4$, $-NR^5R^6$, $-CONR^5R^6$, $-COOR^7$, $-NR^8COR^9$, $-SR^{10}$, $-SO_2R^{10}$,
 15 $-SO_2NR^5R^6$, $-NR^8SO_2R^9$, C_1 - C_6 alkyl or trifluoromethyl groups;

R^2 and R^3 each independently represent a hydrogen atom, or a C_3 - C_7 carbocyclic, C_1 - C_8 alkyl, C_2 - C_6 alkenyl or C_2 - C_6 alkynyl group, the latter four groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from:

- (a) halogen atoms, $-OR^4$, $-NR^5R^6$, $-CONR^5R^6$, $-COOR^7$, $-NR^8COR^9$, $-SR^{10}$, $-SO_2R^{10}$,
 20 $-SO_2NR^5R^6$, $-NR^8SO_2R^9$;
- (b) a 3-8 membered ring optionally containing one or more atoms selected from O, S, NR^8 and itself optionally substituted by C_1 - C_3 -alkyl or halogen; or
- (c) an aryl group or heteroaryl group each of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, cyano, nitro, $-OR^4$, $-NR^5R^6$,
 25 $-CONR^5R^6$, $-NR^8COR^9$, $-SO_2NR^5R^6$, $-NR^8SO_2R^9$, C_1 - C_6 alkyl and trifluoromethyl groups;

R^4 represents hydrogen, C_1 - C_6 alkyl or a phenyl group the latter two of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, phenyl, $-OR^{11}$ and $-NR^{12}R^{13}$

R^5 and R^6 independently represent a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_6 alkyl or phenyl group the latter two of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, phenyl, $-OR^{14}$ and $-NR^{15}R^{16}$, $-CONR^{15}R^{16}$, $-NR^{15}COR^{16}$, $-SONR^{15}R^{16}$, $NR^{15}SO_2R^{16}$

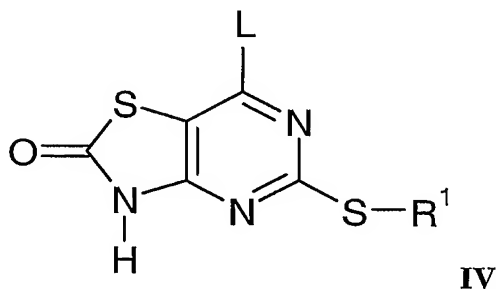
or

R^5 and R^6 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 4- to 7-membered saturated heterocyclic ring system optionally containing a further heteroatom selected from oxygen and nitrogen atoms, which ring system may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from phenyl, $-OR^{14}$, $-COOR^{14}$, $-NR^{15}R^{16}$, $-CONR^{15}R^{16}$, $-NR^{15}COR^{16}$, $-SONR^{15}R^{16}$, $NR^{15}SO_2R^{16}$ or C_1 - C_6 alkyl, itself optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms and $-NR^{15}R^{16}$ and $-OR^{17}$ groups;

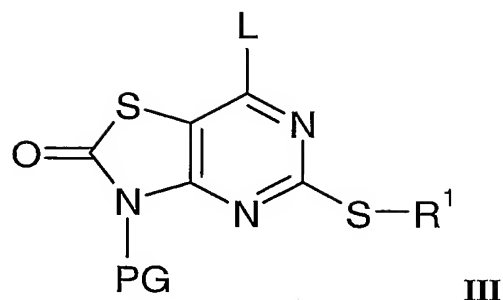
R^{10} represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_6 -alkyl or a phenyl group, the latter two of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, phenyl, $-OR^{17}$ and $-NR^{15}R^{16}$; and

each of R^7 , R^8 , R^9 , R^{11} , R^{12} , R^{13} , R^{14} , R^{15} , R^{16} , R^{17} independently represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_6 alkyl, or a phenyl group.

which method comprises contacting

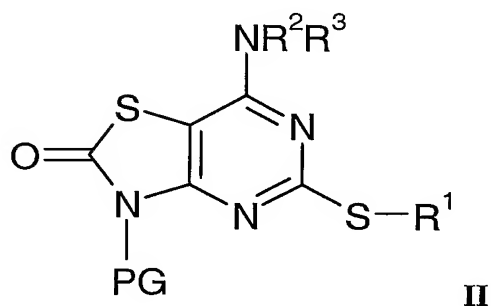


wherein L is a leaving group with a thiazole nitrogen protecting group reagent under appropriate reaction conditions to form a compound of the formula



wherein PG is a protecting group,

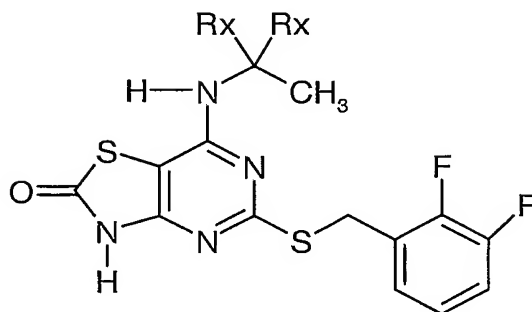
- 5 reacting the compound of formula III with an amine of formula HNR^2R^3
to form a compound of formula



- and deprotection of the compound of formula II to give a compound of the formula I, and
10 simultaneous or sequential conversion to a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1 and wherein R^1 represents an optionally substituted benzyl group.
- 15 3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 and wherein one of R^2 or R^3 is hydrogen and the other is $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_8$ alkyl substituted by hydroxy and one or more methyl or ethyl groups.

4. A method as claimed in claim 1 for the preparation of compounds of the formula Ia

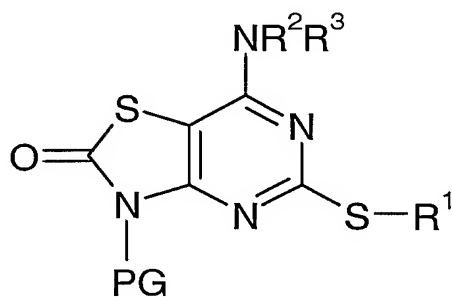
**Ia**

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wherein each R^x is independently selected from hydrogen, a C_{1-4} alkyl group optionally substituted by hydroxy, amino, $-O-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $-S-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $-N-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $-NHSO_2R$, or $-CONR_2$ and provided that both R^x are not hydrogen or amino.

- 10 5. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein each R^x is independently selected from hydrogen and hydroxymethyl, provided that both R^x are not hydrogen.

6. A compound of the formula

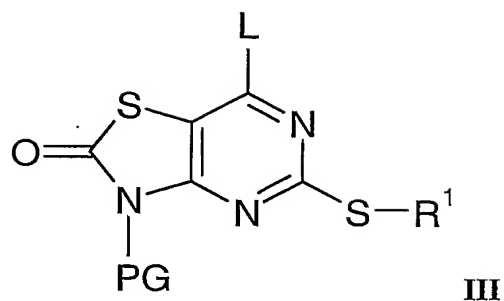
**II**

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or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof and wherein PG, R^2 , R^3 and R^1 have the meanings stated in claim 1.

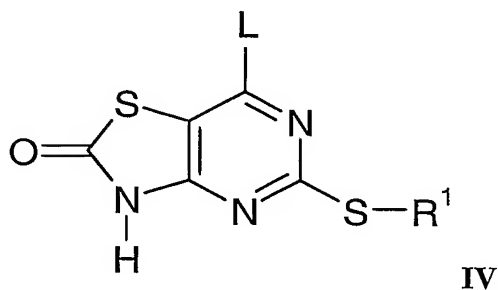
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7. A compound of the formula



5 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof and wherein PG, L and R¹ have the meanings stated in claim 1.

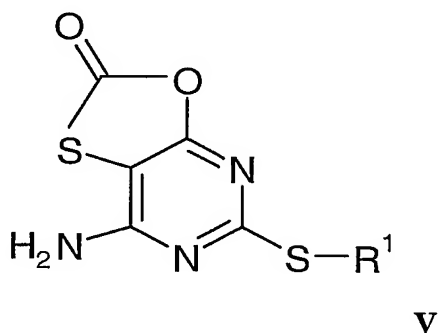
8. A compound of the formula



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or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof and wherein L is a leaving group other than chlorine and R¹ has the meaning stated in claim 1.

15 9. A compound of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof and wherein R¹ has the meaning stated in claim 1.

10. A compound selected from

- 5 5-[[[(2,3-difluorophenyl)methyl]thio]-7-[(1R)-2-hydroxy-1-methylethyl]amino]thiazolo[4,5-*d*]pyrimidin-2(3H)-one, potassium salt;
- 5-[[[(2,3-difluorophenyl)methyl]thio]-7-[[2-hydroxy-1-(hydroxymethyl)-1-methylethyl]amino]thiazolo[4,5-*d*]pyrimidin-2(3H)-one, sodium salt; and
- 5-[[[(2,3-difluorophenyl)methyl]thio]-7-[[2-hydroxy-1-(hydroxymethyl)-1-methylethyl]amino]thiazolo[4,5-*d*]pyrimidin-2(3H)-one, potassium salt.
- 10